

Existing regulations already effectively put hundreds of thousands of acres of forests off-limits to human activity through such laws as the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, not to mention a crushing array of California State regulations. This proposal by the Fish and Wildlife Service would vastly expand those restrictions.

This policy seems to be part of a much bigger picture. In Yosemite National Park, for example, the Department of the Interior is proposing to expel longstanding tourist amenities from the valley and lock in a plan that would result in 27 percent fewer campsites than it had in 1997 and 31 percent less lodging. Throughout the Sierra Nevada, the U.S. Forest Service is closing access to roads, imposing cost-prohibitive fees and conditions on cabin rentals, grazing rights, mining and, of course, timber harvesting while obstructing longstanding community events on which many of these towns rely for their tourism.

The one common denominator in these actions is an obvious desire to discourage the public's use of the public's land. Gifford Pinchot, the legendary founder of the U.S. Forest Service, always said the purpose of the public lands was the "greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." John Muir, the legendary conservationist responsible for preserving Yosemite Valley, did so, in the words of the legislation he inspired, for the express purpose of "public use, resort and recreation."

These visions for the sound management of our public lands that were held by the pioneers of our national parks and forest systems are quickly being replaced by elitist and exclusionary policies that can best be described as "look, but don't touch; visit, but don't enjoy."

No one values the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada more than the people who live there and who have entrusted me to speak for them in Congress. These communities have jealously safeguarded the beauty of the region and the sustainable use of the lands for generations. Their prosperity—and their posterity—depends on the responsible use and stewardship of these lands.

Now Federal authorities are replacing these balanced and responsible policies with vastly different ones that amount to a policy of exclusion and benign neglect. We have a sacred obligation to future generations to preserve and protect our public lands, but protecting our public lands for future generations doesn't mean we must close them to the current generation.

#### OBAMACARE SHOULD BE DELAYED PERMANENTLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on President Obama to delay his health care mandate for all Americans. ObamaCare is simply too overreaching, too intrusive, too unworkable, and too destructive for families across our Nation and in my home State of Missouri.

In the years since ObamaCare was forced through Congress, the American people's opposition to the mandate has only grown, and rightly so. Americans are seeing skyrocketing premiums, they are losing the health insurance they have, and employers are cutting jobs, hours and wages.

Last week, President Obama admitted that his health care mandate was flawed when he announced he would delay the employer mandate portion of the law for 1 year. Mr. Speaker, we don't need to only delay one section of the law; we need to delay the entire law permanently.

Since the beginning, the only aspect of President Obama's health care law that has been bipartisan is the bipartisan opposition to the mandate. Since 2009, the House of Representatives has voted over 30 times to repeal, defund or dismantle provisions of the law. As the newest Member of Congress, I will stand with my colleagues in pushing to defund and repeal the President's health care mandate.

□ 1030

#### THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOVERNMENT OVERSPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week in my hometown, thousands of families experienced their first week of a 3-month cut in pay.

These hardworking families aren't unaware of our Nation's fiscal problems. We all see that our Nation is rapidly approaching \$17 trillion in debt. But a few years ago, Washington denied that this path would lead us the way of Europe and we would not experience pay and benefit cuts to solve our problems like Europe has. Well, here we are. Families are living on much less today as a direct consequence of government overspending for so many years and the mandate to get our economy back in balance.

In the past 3 years, Federal spending has been reduced, taxes have gone up, and the economy has actually experienced some rebound; but we're still overspending almost \$700 billion a year, just this 1 year. That's down from \$1.5 trillion in overspending 4 years ago, but it's still \$700 billion in new debt that our Nation will take on this year.

We have to deal with the economic realities that we currently face because the spreadsheet where we see the negative numbers, those numbers represent families and people that face the negative consequences of our inactivity.

The GAO has identified multiple areas of government redundancy that waste money and where we fail to get the job done, but we seem to just nibble at the edges of fixing what is obviously in front of us.

Social Security disability is now 2 years away from insolvency, but no one seems to notice that if we don't fix disability insurance and get the people off disability that are using it just as unemployment, the most vulnerable in our society, the truly disabled, will face benefit cuts along with those folks that are just gaming the system.

The defense acquisition processes increase costs dramatically. Here's how it works. You get a prime contractor who pays a subprime, who pays a subprime, who pays a subprime. By the way, all of those are all the way through the path, and the last person has actually been someone who has done that job for years and years, and everyone knows it. Everyone knows the game, and everyone knows that in every part of that system there's a markup. The taxpayer is the one who loses on it. Let's fix that, because this affects families and lives.

Multiple defense procurement programs in the past several years have failed to produce a final product at all and have again cost taxpayers billions. Usually, our Federal civilian workforce can tell management exactly where we're wasting money, but sometimes no one's listening to them.

Those opportunities to save go untouched, costing more money in the long run and increasing our debt. Debt has a price for all Americans, but especially for the people working for our Nation.

So what does government debt look like today? For thousands in my district facing furloughs, families are cutting back on food, home repair, gas in the car, and every other expense.

A family I spoke with this past weekend will not have a summer vacation because of the furlough. That may not seem like a big deal to some people, but that's a lost significant family moment that they will never get back. Another family with two kids in college is currently trying to determine which kid won't go back to school this fall.

In some families, both parents are furloughed, making the problem twice as large. A single mom that experiences the furlough has a huge decision. This fall and just a month away, they're going to have to buy school supplies and clothes.

It's a serious problem. They're not a person just sitting at home living off Federal welfare, bemoaning the meager size of their check. They're members of our Federal family who work and give their lives to serve the warfighter.

As you would expect in our community, the community is stepping up. Tinker Federal Credit Union is working with families on their loan repayments, churches are providing school supplies, the Regional Food Bank is